Radiant Church, December 3, 2017

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**Risk Being Uncomfortable**

**Christmas Through Joseph’s Eyes**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

Matthew 1:18-25 *Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us.) When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.*

Isaiah 7:14 *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Joseph made uncomfortable through four dreams (1:20, 2:13, 2:19, 2:22)

Risk reputation (take Mary anyway, go to Bethlehem)

Matthew 2:13-15 *Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him. And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”*

Hosea 11:1 (not a direct prophecy) *When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.*

Risk discomfort and inconvenience (go to Egypt)

Matthew 2:19-22 *But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who south the child’s life are dead.” And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee.*

Risk safety (go back to Israel)

Matthew 2:23 *And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”*

This is not a prophecy of Jesus living in Nazareth, but that he would be despised.

Isaiah 42:1-4 *Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or life up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged til he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.*

Nazarenes were not trusted, and therefore despised. Nazareth was the site of a Roman garrison for the northern regions of Galilee. Most Jews would have nothing to do with that city, and most Jews assumed citizens of Nazareth to be Roman conspirators.

John 1:45-46 *Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “come and see.”*

Risk being despised (go live in an unpopular place.)

Luke 2:41-42 *Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom.*

Risk security (going to Jerusalem)

Luke 2:43-51 *And when the feast ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day’s journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.*

Risk not having control of circumstances and cultural expectations

 Jesus refers to God as his Father, rather than Joseph

Risk obscurity (little to no mention of Joseph after Jesus’ early years)

Recap:

What did Christmas mean for Joseph? It meant living an uncomfortable life!

Risk reputation

Risk discomfort and inconvenience

Risk safety

Risk being despised

Risk security

Risk not having control of circumstances and cultural expectations

Risk obscurity

What do you risk in order to be obedient to Jesus?

He risked everything!